

## **SPECIFICATION**

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3 TITLE: NECTARINE TREE NAMED 'SPRING PEARL'

4 INVENTOR: Lowell Glen Bradford

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6 Le Grand, California 95333

7 BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION: *Prunus persica*.

8 VARIETY DENOMINATION: 'SPRING PEARL'

## BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

In a continuing effort to improve the quality of shipping fruits, I, the inventor, typically hybridize a large number of peach, nectarine, plum, apricot, and cherry seedlings each year. I also grow a lesser number of open pollinated seeds of each of these fruits, usually to capture recessive traits. The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, which has been denominated varietally as 'SPRING PEARL'. During the spring and summer of 1997 I gathered fruit from several different unnamed seedlings in my experimental orchard located near Le Grand, California, in Merced County (San Joaquin Valley). One particular group of nectarines were white in flesh color, clingstone in type, and sub-acidic in flavor, and were thus designated as "WNC (OP)". The seeds from this fruit were removed, cracked, stratified, germinated and grown as seedlings on their own root in my greenhouse, and upon reaching dormancy transplanted to a cultivated area in the experimental orchard described above. During the fruit evaluation season of 2000 I selected several nectarines that exhibited desirable qualities,

1 as the present variety was selected as a single tree from the group of  
2 "WNC (OP)" described above. Subsequent to origination of the present  
3 variety of nectarine tree, I asexually reproduced it by budding and  
4 grafting in the experimental orchard described above, and such  
5 reproduction of plant and fruit characteristics were true to the original  
6 plant in all respects. The reproduction of the variety included the use  
7 of 'Nemaguard' rootstock (unpatented) upon which the present variety was  
8 compatible and true to type.

The present variety is most similar to 'June Pearl' (United States Plant Patent Number 9,360) nectarine, by producing nectarines that are very firm in texture, sub-acidic and sweet in flavor, clingstone in type, and nearly full red in skin color, but is distinguished therefrom by producing fruit that is more globose in shape, has virtually no protruding tips at the apex, is larger in size, and matures about five days later.

## SUMMARY OF VARIETY

17 In summary, the present variety is characterized by a medium  
18 size, vigorous, hardy, self-fertile, productive and regular bearing tree.  
19 The fruit matures under the ecological conditions described approximately  
20 the third week in June, with first picking on June 21, 2003. The fruit  
21 is uniformly large in size, excellent in flavor, globose in shape,  
22 clingstone in type, very firm in texture, white in flesh color, and red  
23 in skin color. The variety was developed as an open pollinated seedling  
24 from an unnamed white flesh nectarine.

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DRAWING

2           The accompanying photograph exhibits four whole fruits  
3 positioned to display the characteristics of the skin color and form, one  
4 fruit divided transversely to the suture plane to reveal the flesh and  
5 stone, and typical leaves.

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POMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

7           Referring now more specifically to the pomological  
8 characteristics of this new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, the  
9 following has been observed under the ecological conditions prevailing  
10 near Le Grand, Merced County (San Joaquin Valley), California, and was  
11 developed at the state of firm ripe on June 25, 2003, on the original  
12 tree during its sixth growing season. All major color code designations  
13 are by reference to the Inter-Society Color Council, National Bureau of  
14 Standards. Common color names are also used occasionally.

15

Tree

16       Size: Medium, reaching a height of 11' [3.35 m.] and a spread of 10'  
17                    [3.05 m.] after six growing seasons utilizing typical dormant  
18                    pruning.

19       Vigor: Vigorous, responding typically to irrigation and fertilization.  
20                    The variety grows about 3' [0.91 m.] of surplus top-growth  
21                    during the spring and summer. The plant should be grown on a  
22                    standard commercial rootstock for production purposes.

23       Growth: Spreading and dense.

24       Form: Vase formed.

25       Hardiness: Hardy with respect to central California winters.

6      Production: Productive, thinning necessary.

7      Fertility:    Self-fertile.

8      Bearing:    Regular bearer with no alternate bearing yet observed.

9      Trunk:

10                   Size.- Medium, with a maximum diameter of 3 3/4" [95 mm.]  
11                   after the sixth growing season.

12                    *Texture.* - Somewhat shaggy.

13                   *Bark Color.*—A two-tone variegation of Dark grayish yellowish  
14                   brown [81. d.gy.yBr] and Dark brown [59. d.Br].

15                   *Lenticels*.- Approximate Number Per Square Inch: 10.

16 Color: Brownish orange [54. brO].

17 Typical Size: 1/8" to 7/16" [3.2 - 11.1 mm.].

22                   Texture.- Smooth on 1st year wood, increasing roughness  
23                   with age.

24 Color.- 1st Year Wood Topside: Moderate red [15. m.R].

25 1st Year Wood Underside: Brilliant yellow green

1 [116. brill.YG].

2 Older Wood: Deep yellowish brown [75. deep yBr].

3 *Lenticels.* - Approximate Number Per Square Inch: 100.

4 Color: Moderate orange [53. m.O].

5 Typical size: 1/32" to 1/8" [0.8 - 3.2 mm.].

6 Leaves: *Size.* - Medium.

7 Average Length: 5 5/8" [143 mm.].

8 Average width: 1 1/2" [38 mm.].

9 *Arrangement.* - Alternate.

10 *Thickness.* - Medium.

11 *Form.* - Elliptical.

12 *Apex.* - Acuminate.

13 *Base.* - Acute, with an average base angle of 80 degrees.

14 *Surface.* - Smooth.

15 *Color.* - Dorsal Surface: Moderate olive green [125. m.OlG].

16 Ventral Surface: Moderate yellow green [120. m.YG].

17 *Margin.* - Finely serrate.

18 *Venation.* - Pinnately net veined.

19 *Petiole.* - Average Length: 1/2" [12.7 mm.].

20 Average Thickness: 1/16" [1.6 mm.].

21 Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG].

22 *Stipules.* - Number: 2 per leaf, up to 6 per growing tip.

23 Average Length: 7/16" [11.1 mm.].

24 Color: Strong yellow green [117. s.YG] when young, becoming

25 light reddish brown [42. l.rBr] with age.

Glands.- Average number: 4.

Position: Mostly alternate, first two on petiole, rest  
on base of blade.

Size: Medium.

Form: Reniform.

Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG] when young, acquiring a Moderate reddish orange [37. m.rO] center with age.

*Leaf Buds.* - Conic.

### Flower Buds:

*Hardiness.*— Hardy, with respect to central California winters.

Diameter.- Typically 9/16" [14.3 mm.] 1 day before bloom.

*Length.*—Typically 15/16" [23.8 mm.] 1 day before bloom.

*Form.* - Not appressed.

*Surface.*— Pubescent.

Color.- Strong purplish red [255. s.pR] when tip is first

19       Flowers: Perfect, complete, perigynous, usually a single pistil,  
20                   typically thirty or more stamens, five sepals and petal  
21                   locations alternately positioned.

22 Type.- Showy, large.

23                   Average Flower Diameter.- 1 13/16" [46.0 mm.].

24                   *Number of Petals.*— Mostly five, but about ten percent are  
25                   double blossoms and many possess extra



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**FRUIT**

2    Maturity When Described: Firm ripe, June 25, 2003.

3    Date of First Picking: June 21, 2003.

4    Date of Last Picking: June 30, 2003.

5    Size: Uniform, large.

6              *Average Diameter Axially.*- 2 9/16" [65.1 mm.] .

7              *Average Diameter Across Suture Plane.*- 2 5/8" [66.7 mm.] .

8              *Typical Weight.*- 6.8 ounces [193 grams].

9    Form: Uniform, globose.

10          *Longitudinal Section Form.*- Circular.

11          *Transverse Section Through Diameter.*- Circular.

12    Suture: A visible groove extending from the base well beyond the apex,  
13              sharp near the base, shallow along the side, and deep and  
14              somewhat sharp toward the apex.

15    Ventral Surface: Rounded, lipped throughout on both sides.

16    Lips: Somewhat unequal.

17    Cavity: Flaring, elongated in the suture plane, suture showing on one  
18              side, and Greenish white [153. gWhite] stem markings typical.

19              *Depth.*- 7/16" [11.1 mm.] .

20              *Breadth.*- 7/8" [22.2 mm.] .

21    Base: Truncate.

22    Apex: Rounded and somewhat emarginate if viewed along the suture.

23    Pistil Point: Some oblique and some apical, negligible in length,  
24              depressed within the suture.

25    Stem: Medium.

1           *Average Length.- 3/8" [9.5 mm.].*

2           *Average Width.- 3/16" [4.8 mm.].*

3       Skin:

4           *Thickness.- Medium.*

5           *Surface.- Smooth.*

6           *Tenacity.- Tenacious to flesh.*

7           *Astringency.- Nonastringent.*

8           *Tendency to Crack.- None observed in dry season.*

9           *Color.- Very dark red [17. v.d.R] over a Moderate red [15. m.R]*  
10                    *background with a minor amount of Light yellowish brown*  
11                    *[76. l.yBr] freckling toward the apex and some very small*  
12                    *Light yellow green [119. l.YG] areas in the stem cavity*  
13                    *where sunlight deprived.*

14       Flesh:   *Color.- White [263. White] to Greenish white [153. gWhite] toward*  
15                    *the stone with occasional Moderate red [15. m.R] flecking*  
16                    *toward the skin when reaching past maturity.*

17           *Surface of Pit Cavity.- Greenish white [153. gWhite] fibers*  
18                    *breaking when twisted from the stone.*

19           *Amygdalin.- Scarce.*

20           *Juice.- Abundant, rich.*

21           *Texture.- Firm and very crisp.*

22           *Fibers.- Abundant, fine.*

23           *Ripens.- Slightly earlier toward the apex.*

24           *Flavor.- Mildly sub-acidic and sweet, averaging 17 brix.*

25           *Aroma.- Slight.*

1                   *Eating Quality.*— Very Good.

STONE

3      Type: Clingstone.

4      Form: Oval.

5      Hilum: Oval.

6      Base: Fairly straight.

7      Apex: Rounded to cuneate with a slightly protruding tip and an average  
8                  tip angle of 90 degrees.

9      Sides:    Equal.

10 Surface: Irregularly furrowed near the apex and pitted toward the base.

11      Ridges:    Jagged toward the base.

12 External Color: Light orange [52. 1.0] when freshly exposed.

13 Pit Wall Color When Cracked: Pale orange yellow [73. p.OY

14      Internal Cavity Color: Light yellowish brown

15      Average Pit Wall Thickness:    1/4" [

16      Average Width:    1 1/16" [27.0 mm.] .

17 Average Length: 1 9/16" [39.7 mm.].

18      Average Breadth:  13/16" [20.6 mm.].

19 Tendency To Split: Slight.

20 Kernel:

21 Form.- Oval.

22 *Pellucide Color.*—Light grayish yellowish brown [79. l.qv.vBr].

23 *Skin Color*.—Pale yellow [89. p. X] when first cracked.

24 Vein Color.- Pale orange yellow [73, p. 89].

25                              *Taste = Bitter*

26                    *Viable* = Yes

Average Width.- 1/2" [12.7 mm.].

*Average Length.- 13/16" [20.6 mm.]*

*Amygdalin.* - Abundant.

**USE**

5 Market: Fresh market and long distance shipping.

9      Shipping Quality:    Good.

10 Resistance To Insects: No unusual susceptibilities noted.

11 Resistance To Diseases: No unusual susceptibilities noted.

### **Other Notes**

13           Although the new variety of nectarine tree possesses the  
14 described characteristics under the ecological conditions at Le Grand,  
15 California, in the central part of the San Joaquin Valley, it is to be  
16 expected that variations in these characteristics may occur when farmed  
17 in areas with different climatic conditions, different soil types, and/or  
18 varying cultural practices.

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